Decision to invest in Tata Tele Services

177. SHRI ABANI ROY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have asked VSNL to reverse its decision to invest Rs. 1200 crore in Tata Tele Services as reported in the Pioneer dated the 1st June; 2002;

(b) if so, whether Government's nominee on the VSNL Board had opposed the investments in Tata Tele Services;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to take faster action against VSNL in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) The Government has desired that before a final decision is taken, careful analysis and consideration of the desirability of such an investment by VSNL in the targeted company may be undertaken though the process of study by the Sub Committee proposed by the Board.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Sub-committee proposed by the Board with one Government Director is to submit its report by August 15, 2002.

Telephone connection from M.P. quota in H.P.

†178. SHRJ ANIL SHARMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending at Jaisinghpur telephone exchange of Kangra district in Himachal Pradesh at present waiting for telephone connection from M.P priority quota;

(b) the details thereof, the places where the said telephones are to be

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.